

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6118
BILL NUMBER: SB 103

DATE PREPARED: Nov 8, 2000
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Alternative teacher certification.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chuck Mayfield
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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the teacher alternative certification program. It requires the Professional Standards Board to administer the program to facilitate the entry into the teaching profession of competent persons holding degrees in fields other than teaching and to allow competent persons who do not hold a teaching license to earn and be issued a teaching license. The bill requires the Professional Standards Board to establish details of the teacher alternative certification program. The bill also requires each accredited teacher training school and department that issues a master's degree to establish a one year master's degree course of study that constitutes the higher education component of the program. This bill requires the Professional Standards Board to issue an initial standard teacher license to a qualified program participant who successfully completes both the higher education component of the program and a teacher internship program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill establishes the alternative certification program. To participate, a person must have a bachelor's degree or a postgraduate degree with a 2.5 grade-point average on a four-point scale (or the equivalent). The participant can receive an initial standard license by participating in a master's degree program, a teacher internship program, and receiving a successful assessment of teaching skills from the school administrator where the internship program takes place. The masters' program includes at least 30 credit hours of study and can be completed in one year. The courses are to emphasize education methodology and practices.

The number of graduates that would select the alternative certification method is not known. Currently there is the Beginning Teacher Internship Program administered by the Professional Standards Board. A mentor teacher receives about \$600 to provide guidance to a beginning teacher. A similar program would probably be needed for the internship program. If 500 people participated in the alternative certification program, the cost of the internship program could be \$300,000.

In addition, the alternative certification program would probably require a PAT I-level educational consultant at approximately \$47,552 for FY 2002 and \$47,640 for FY 2003 to handle the additional work.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: 1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; 2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; and 3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified.

As of November 15, 2000, three of the Board's 37 authorized positions will be vacant. Of the vacancies, one is the director, another is the deputy director, and the third vacant position is an education consultant.

Other sources to fund personnel resources could originate from funds that, otherwise, would be reverted, or from new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

The Professional Standards Board is in the process of creating new certification standards that are based on performance instead of credit hours. If the new standards become reality then they may provide an alternative certification system.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Professional Standards Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Tom Hansen, Professional Standards Board, (317) 232-9043.